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REPORT OF THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 8-10 October 1980

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CONTENTS

	Page
A - Organization and Attendance	1
B - Agenda	3
C - Proceedings and recommendations of the Conference	4
D - Decisions and resolutions	19

Annex - List of participants

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A. ORGANIZATION AND ATTENDANCE

1. The third Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs was held in Africa Hall, Addis Ababa, from 6 to 10 October 1980. It was organized under the joint sponsorship of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity. The Government of Ethiopia provided host facilities.

2. The Conference was attended by representatives of the following 34 member States: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, the Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahirya, Mali, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, the Sudan, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, the United Republic of Cameroon, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Representatives of the following 16 international organizations also took part: WHO, ILO, FAO, ASWEA, IPPF, UNDP, PAC, PAF, ACARTSOD, Royal Association in Aid of the Deaf and Dumb, SWAPO, UNCSDHA, NAO, Rehabilitation International, LRCS and ANC.

3. The Conference was called to order by H.E. Mr. Ahmed Shokry, Vice Minister of Social Affairs of the Government of Egypt, in his capacity as Chairman of the second Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs. H.E. Mr. Shokry thanked the Government of Ethiopia for having graciously provided host facilities for the third Conference.

Election of officers

4. The Conference unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairman	:	Mr. Kassa Kebede Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Ethiopia
First Vice-Chairman	:	Mr. Azzouz Amar Secretary-General, Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, Algeria
Second Vice-Chairman	:	Mr. D.D. Sanyangore Deputy Director Department of Social Services, Zimbabwe

5. Mr. Fikre-Selassie Wogderes, Secretary-General of the Provisional Military Administrative Government of Ethiopia delivered the opening address. On behalf of the Ethiopian people and Government and on his own behalf, he welcomed participants and observers to the Conference. He called upon them to focus on the social problems in Africa, which were enormous, and asked that ways and means of solving them be found. He pointed out that the existing world economic order was disoriented. Under the existing order, economically backward countries were being subjected to exploitation, and there was no economic justice. The African

continent was in the throes of hunger, disease and ignorance. The economies of many African countries were still dependent on the benevolence of the developed countries. One could visualize the grave and dangerous situation in Africa in the future if the present trend in most African countries of continuously deteriorating conditions, population increase and worsening unemployment problems were allowed to continue. Food production was insufficient, industrialization was stunted, transport and communication infrastructures were underdeveloped and technology was backward.

6. He also referred to the non-availability of means for improvement and change in the educational and vocational areas, the need to integrate women and youth in national development efforts as well as the condition and rehabilitation of disabled persons. The alarming increase in refugees was another problem facing the continent. Other problem areas related to out-moded farming methods, pollution, escalating price of petrol, lack of alternative sources of energy and paucity of foreign exchange. It was essential that Africa should strengthen its unity and become self-reliant through joint efforts. It had become increasingly evident that the negotiations conducted with the rich nations, and the much hoped for assistance for economic take-off had not yielded the results originally anticipated by the developing countries. It was only when Africa was able to control its natural resources and to chart a path for the utilization of these resources for its needs and objectives that the deep-rooted social problems would be eliminated.

7. The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Mr. Adebayo Adedeji said in his statement that the Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs was meeting for the first time at the home base of its three sponsors - the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and the Association for Social Work Education in Africa (ASWEA). On behalf of the third Conference, the Executive Secretary expressed, through the Secretary-General Mr. Fikre Selassie Wogderes, to H.E. Mengistu Haile Mariam his sincere gratitude and appreciation for the host facilities generously placed at its disposal.

8. Mr. Adedeji gave a brief report on the activities undertaken by ECA and OAU leading to the establishment at Tripoli of the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD) and on the financial assistance and physical facilities which had been provided by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The Conference was expected to consider the establishment, administration and financing of the Centre including the appointment of the Executive Director and establishment of the Board of Governors of the Centre. Although the Lagos Plan of Action which was before the third Conference addressed itself openly to the "economic" development of Africa, the social implications to be drawn from the targets of the Plan were obvious. The Conference must therefore articulate, elaborate and underscore the importance of the social implications for the successful implementation of the Plan.

9. The OAU Acting Secretary General, Mr. Noureddine Djoudi, pointed out that the Third Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs was the first ministerial power to consider the Lagos Plan of Action. The Conference was timely because Africans were highly aware of their problems and were determined to draw up their own development plan based on collective reliance. Colonialist and imperialist forces were exploiting and plundering the human and natural resources of Africa. After 20 years of independence, African countries were still living under a permanent threat of aggression prepared and organized by outside Powers. He urged participants to come up with solutions which would allow Africa to mobilize its energy and correct the injustices and sufferings of the past.

10. Dr. Kate Bryant, Minister of Health and Social Welfare of Liberia, on behalf of participants thanked Mr. Fikre-Selassie Wogderes for his address to the Conference.

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

11. The Conference adopted the following agenda:

(1) Patterns of development

(a) The African social situation

(b) Social implications of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Economic Development of Africa

(c) International co-operation in social development

(2) The African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD)

(a) Report on the establishment of the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development

(b) Programme of activities and budget for the biennium 1981-1982

(c) Scale of assessment for contributions by member States to the budget of the Centre

(d) Appointment of the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director of the Centre

(e) Designation of the members of the Governing Board of ACARTSOD for the biennium 1981-1982

(3) Any other business

(4) Date and venue of the next session

(5) Adoption of the final report of the Conference.

C. PROCEEDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

(a) Proceedings of the Conference

12. The report of the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting in preparation for the third Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs (Document AMSA/III/WP.9/Rpt), was presented to the Conference. Parts A, B and C of the report, which covered attendance and organization of work, agenda, and proceedings and findings, were endorsed. Having considered the major social implications of the Lagos Plan of Action, the Conference amended part D of the report of the Experts dealing with recommendations relating to the social context within which the Lagos Plan of Action for the Economic Development of Africa was to be implemented. The recommendations as adopted by the Ministerial Conference are presented below in Section C(b) of this report.

13. In connexion with the agenda item dealing with the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD), the Conference reviewed the proceedings, findings and recommendations of the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting and adopted a series of decisions pertaining to the establishment and financing of the Centre, the programme of work of the Centre, constitution of the Governing Board of the Centre, and the appointment of the Executive Director of the Centre. These decisions are included in Section D of this report.

14. Under agenda item 3, the Conference considered the following issues:

(a) Follow-up on resolution 4(II) adopted during its second session in Alexandria in 1977 concerning the preparation of an African Charter for Social Action. It was agreed to set up an Ad-Hoc Committee to prepare a draft for the afore-mentioned Charter, which should be ready for consideration during the fourth session of the Conference. The decision adopted by the Conference in this connexion is included in Section D of the present report.

(b) The final report of the IYDP preparatory meetings held in Addis Ababa from 1 to 7 October 1980 was presented to the Conference for consideration and adoption by the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of Benin who was the Chairman of the IYDP drafting committee meetings. The Conference adopted the report as submitted. The report of the Regional Seminar of the International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP) is issued separately (document ECA/OAU/IYDP/80/ Rpt. 2 , see also resolutions 3(III) and 4(III) in Section D of this report).

(c) The Progress Report of the OAU Secretary-General for the period January 1977 to July 1980 (document AMSA/III/WP.7) was presented to the Conference, together with a verbal presentation of activities for the period July to September 1980. This included OAU's participation in the Copenhagen Conference of the Decade for Women, the annual meeting of the Pan-African Youth Movement, and the Caracas meeting on the prevention of crime and treatment of offenders.

(d) The Conference considered and adopted four resolutions emanating from the various items of the agenda discussed. These resolutions are reproduced in Section D below.

15. During its closing hours information reached the Conference that an earthquake had just devastated El-Asnam and other towns in Algeria. The Conference observed a minute's silence in memory of the victims of the catastrophe. Condolences were extended to the Algerian delegation by all the participants. A cable was addressed, on behalf of the Conference, to the President of Algeria. The Conference also adopted a resolution which called for voluntary assistance and relief to the Government of Algeria and victims of the earthquake. The text of the resolution (7(III)) appears in Section D of this report.

16. Before the close of the session the Chairman invited Ms. Zala Lisubu N'Kanza, Executive Secretary of the International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP), to make a statement. In her statement, Ms. N'Kanza traced the history of IYDP observance, saying that it was upon the initiative of the Libyan delegation to the United Nations who was the Chairman of the Advisory Committee for IYDP, that 1981 had been declared the International Year of Disabled Persons. She lauded the OAU for its resolutions on the subject and for associating itself with preparatory work for the Year.

17. She defined the aim of the Regional Seminar as being to bring together theory and practice in order to achieve a pragmatic approach to the problem through a meeting of minds of experts and policy makers. Africa was not expected to evolve a regional plan of action but rather to define priorities in accordance with the realities of the region and to determine how the priorities could be reflected in the global plan of action. That, she said, had been achieved. The IYDP meetings in Africa had had the added advantage that the report of the Regional Seminar had been presented to a full Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs convened by both the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity and that the report had been adopted by the Ministers. That gave authority to the views and recommendations that had been made for Governments, groups and individuals in Africa and to efforts in disability prevention and eradication at the international level.

(b) Recommendations of the Conference

18. The recommendations made by the Conference of Ministers to member States dealing with the social context within which the Lagos Plan of Action is to be implemented fell under the following headings: (1) The demographic and health situation; (2) The quality of human resources; (3) The status of women and opportunities for involvement in national development efforts, (4) Youth unemployment, (5) Refugees and displaced persons; (6) Adverse social consequences of the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action; and (7) International co-operation in social development.

I. Measures to improve the demographic and health situation

Whereas the present age structure of the African population is such that on average close to 44 per cent of the total population is below the age of 15,

Whereas such an age structure implies a high dependency ratio which in turn depresses the propensity of the labour force to save and exerts pressure on Governments to increase expenditure on social services,

Whereas this low propensity to save militates against a nation's ability to mobilize sufficient resources for investment,

Whereas low life expectancy at birth shortens the productive life span and therefore entails low returns on investment on education and training,

It is, therefore, recommended that member States should:

1. Formulate, elaborate and implement population and family policies appropriate to the realities of their countries so as to:

(a) reduce the dependency ratio over time;

(b) strike a balance between population and resources;

(c) reduce the burden of excessive child birth on women and thereby reduce the detrimental effects of this on the health of the mother and thus make it possible for women to participate effectively in general development efforts;

(d) reduce the unacceptable high rate of infant mortality which is still to some extent associated with the low level of resources available for health in African countries, and the high fertility rate;

2. (a) Organize and strengthen their national health systems and include in such networks primary health care as defined by the Alma Ata Conference, the objective being 'Health for all by the Year 2000';

(b) In this context, pay special attention to the vulnerable groups, namely mothers and children, by stressing:

(i) Prenatal and post natal care to and supervision of mothers;

(ii) Family life education and responsible parenthood so as to enable parents to make informed decisions about the number of children they want and can afford.

(iii) Education of parents and parent substitutes about nutrition for family members of various ages with particular reference to the nutritional requirements of children;

(iv) Improvement of community health through the promotion of primary health services.

II. Measures to improve the quality of human resources

Whereas the illiteracy rate among the African population is unacceptably high,

Whereas this state of affairs has a direct bearing on the productivity of the work force,

Whereas significant proportions of the primary and secondary school age populations have no chance of acquiring an education,

Whereas the proportion of girls attending primary and secondary school is much lower than that of boys,

Whereas curricula at both the first and second levels are heavily biased towards the arts and are lacking in vocational and technical content resulting in a situation where children leave school for one reason or another with little or no practical skill,

It is therefore, recommended that:

1. Member States should mobilize all available resources (material and human) to eradicate illiteracy among adults within as short a time as possible in order to increase their absorptive capacity and thereby improve their productivity;

2. Parallel and concomitant with the above, reading materials must be prepared and made available to neo-literates via such mechanisms as community libraries and centres. These materials should be of such a nature that they deal with problems of life in general and must impart knowledge and skill on such matters as health, family life, production, etc. Intellectuals should make efforts to translate scientific knowledge into reality in Africa,

3. Increased efforts should be made by member States to ensure the universalization of opportunities for education for all children regardless of sex, religion, ethnic affiliation and place of residence;

4. Special efforts be made to reform the curricular content at the first and second levels of education with a view to increasing their vocational and technical content and to making them more relevant to local needs and circumstances;

5. Orientation systems must be created which will make it possible to direct children and youth into vocational streams in line with their interests and aptitudes;

6. At the higher level, science and technology should be given greater prominence than is the case at present;

7. Due importance should be attached to the teaching of African history, culture and civilization so that young Africans should continue to feel an attachment to authentic African values and thus find a better ground for mutual comprehension and understanding.

III. Measures to improve the status of women and increase their opportunities for involvement in national development efforts

Whereas the engagement of women in a variety of non-domestic activities is affected by traditional behaviour patterns, social attitudes and taboos,

Whereas the limitations set by some traditional values and religious doctrines on the right of women to education have direct bearing on the practice of assigning women to low-status occupations,

It is, therefore, recommended that:

1. African Governments and educational institutions should launch campaigns to change present attitudes towards the place of women in society and take concrete measures to change the status of women in society;

2. Governments should increase efforts to achieve the equalization of educational opportunities for both sexes;

3. Governments should take immediate measures to abolish discriminatory policies and practices in employment, wages and conditions of work. The principle of equal opportunity for employment, promotion and the extension of equal protection to all workers regardless of sex, colour and tribal affiliation must be accepted both de facto and de jure;

4. Since early marriage and adolescent maternity cause a whole range of social, physical and psychological disabilities etc., the legal age at marriage should be raised significantly and family life education and related services be

made available in adequate scope and quality to young people. In this connexion, centres should be established in the rural areas to offer family life education for rural women in order, inter alia, to prevent early marriage;

5. Organizations such as the Pan African Women's Organization which play advocacy roles in promoting policies to improve the economic, social and political status of women in Africa, as well as the ECA/ATRCW regional and subregional machineries for the integration of women in the development process, must receive political, material and financial support from member States so that they will perform their tasks adequately and effectively;

6. In order to enhance the quality of their participation in development efforts and in order to improve their levels of productivity, opportunity for non-formal education focusing on imparting new skills such as in agriculture, animal husbandry, home management etc., should be opened to women;

7. In order to give women the opportunity to participate in wage-earning occupations in the formal sector, Governments should establish a network of creches, day-care centres, etc.;

8. In order to help to relieve women from the drudgery of their daily tasks at home and outside, programmes should be undertaken for the development, production and marketing of simple and inexpensive labour-saving devices so as to free them for more effective participation in development;

9. In order to ensure that women participate to the full in development activities, ways should be found effectively to alleviate their family tasks by giving them access to technologically appropriate work tools and training them in the use of such tools;

10. A certain percentage of seats on established bodies and in planning and execution services should be made available to or reserved for women so that they can assume their full role and discharge their share of responsibility in national development.

IV. Measures to deal with problems of youth unemployment

Whereas there are large but indeterminate numbers of both girls and boys who are prematurely out of school for a veriety of reasons,

Whereas upon leaving school they are not adequately equipped with specific productive and marketable skills, owing to the fact that most educational systems are elicit in character,

Whereas if opportunities are not found for creative and productive outlets for their pent-up youthful energies they are likely to drift towards anti-social and deviant behaviour representing a threat to the social fabric,

It is, therefore, recommended that:

1. African Governments should create a network of skill and vocational training facilities in order to prepare out-of-school youth - both boys and girls - for productive employment in appropriate sectors of the national economy;

2. Governments should create opportunities for continuing education for both boys and girls who have prematurely left school, through evening institutes in urban areas and through correspondence education and the mass media for those who live and work in remote areas;

3. Governments should consider the establishment of national youth service programmes where they do not exist and strengthen those which are already in existence with a view to tapping the energy of boys and girls for development purposes;

4. OAU should pay special attention to youth movements on the continent and workers' organizations (Pan-African Yough Movement and the Organization of African Trade Union Unity) by extending financial support for the implementation of their various programmes.

V. Measures to deal with the problems of refugees and displaced persons

Whereas refugees and displaced persons represent a manpower drain and impose a heavy burden that holds grave financial and social consequences for African countries,

Whereas, it is necessary for States members of OAU to assume collective responsibility for the well-being of persons who have become refugees and displaced persons as a result of economic social and political problems and natural and man-made disasters in their own land, as well as aggression or threat of aggression by one member State against another

Whereas it is necessary for OAU and the appropriate bodies of the United Nations to safeguard fundamental rights and to provide for the basic human needs of persons in refugee status and to assist displaced persons to start a new life, whether they are on the continent or outside it,

It is, therefore, recommended that:

1. Member States should intensify their efforts to improve the economic, social and other conditions that tend to serve as push factors for refugees and displaced persons;

2. Member States should intensify collective efforts to force racist and expansionist regimes to change their policies towards African populations radically and to desist forthwith from committing aggression against their neighbours, especially the Front-line States;

3. OAU should use all available means to promote peace, stability, security and good neighbourly relations among African countries by ensuring that member States abide strictly by the principles and relevant decisions of OAU, the United Nations and the Non-Aligned Movement, and in particular the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States, inviolability of State frontiers acquired at the time of independence, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, non-use of force and the settlement of disputes by peaceful means;

4. Material and technical assistance be extended to Front-line States in southern Africa, in conformity with the relevant decisions of OAU, so that they can effectively discharge their responsibility to the national liberation movements and provide adequate care to victims of the apartheid regime;

5. Member States which have not yet done so should accede to the 1951 United Nations Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, in accordance with OAU resolution CM/Res. 314(XXV), since that would contribute to resolving the problem of refugees in Africa;

6. Member States should recognize the peaceful and humanitarian nature of granting asylum and must strictly abide by the provisions of Article 3 of the OAU Convention;

7. Efforts be made by OAU, the Office of UNHCR and other appropriate United Nations agencies to facilitate the placement of refugees in ways that will fairly distribute the burden across the continent, in accordance with the recommendations of the 1979 Arusha Conference on the Situation of Refugees in Africa, and with other relevant OAU decisions and resolutions and in particular CM/Res.727;

8. Agencies should be established at the regional and subregional level to:

(a) Build an information bank about employment and training possibilities in various parts of the Continent;

(b) Serve as first stage reception and processing centres and make initial arrangements for temporary care;

(c) Assess skill levels of recently arrived refugees with a view to using this assessment as a basis for exploring placement possibilities in potential countries of asylum;

(d) Provide refugees destined to go to a given country with orientation and counselling about the political, economic and social conditions of the country of asylum in order to facilitate the adjustment of the new refugees to the new environment;

(e) Work towards the eventual integration of refugees with the host society through such means as opening up access of refugee children to the educational system and whenever possible promoting the residential integration of refugees in the larger community.

9. A special resolution should be adopted on urgent and imperative need to free all political detainees being held prisoners in southern Africa and particularly Nelson Mandela.

VI. Social policy measures to be taken in anticipation of adverse social consequences of the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action

A. Agricultural development

Whereas, as a result of the low priority accorded to agriculture in development planning and the great emphasis placed on cash crop production in the past, the food situation in Africa is assuming serious proportions, as a result of which Africa has now become a net importer of food,

Recognizing the fact that the modernization of agriculture is given prominence in the Lagos Plan of Action,

Convinced that, by and large, nothing but benefits could accrue from the efforts to promote agricultural development,

Whereas at the same time it is important to recognize that production techniques (capital-or labour-intensive) that must be adopted will affect the labour use pattern and hence will have an impact on rural unemployment and underemployment,

Whereas it is important to recognize that there are institutional impediments such as landlord-tenant relations and uneconomical and fragmented land use techniques that contribute to stagnation in the agricultural sector,

Considering the high proportion of food losses due to spoilage,

Considering that man is at the centre of the development process and benefits or suffers from the social costs of development and therefore needs to be in good physical and mental state,

It is, therefore, recommended that:

1. Member States should formulate and implement far-reaching agrarian reform programmes with utmost urgency;

2. Governments of the region should create research programmes and facilities to adapt production technologies to make them suitable for African realities;

3. Governments should formulate and implement, with utmost urgency, policies concerning soil conservation, the tapping of underground water and reforestation so as to restore and maintain ecological equilibrium in rural areas;

4. Governments should formulate and implement improved range-management programmes which focus on making nomadic pastoralists sedentary by gradually circumscribing areas of movement and simultaneously creating the basic and necessary social infrastructure such as schools, health facilities, housing, markets, etc;

5. In order to enhance the efficient functioning of society and promote productivity, Governments should launch massive campaigns aimed at eradicating illiteracy among the agricultural population using all available manpower including students and the military;

6. Governments should take prompt and decisive measures to promote the co-operative movement to ensure that it covers the food production subsector;

7. Governments should accord priority in rural development schemes to the expansion of small-scale and cottage industries with a view to solving the problems of rural unemployment and underemployment;

8. Governments should become directly involved, via State entrepreneurship, in large-scale production of food, using appropriate technology with a view to increasing food reserves;

9. Governments should launch mass education programmes designed to change traditional customs, taboos and attitudes concerning the utilization of food;

10. Governments should organize a sustained campaign using agricultural extension and community development type of strategies to educate the agricultural population in improved methods of cultivation, harvesting, storage and processing of agricultural produce;

11. Governments should wage educational campaigns against traditional customs and taboos which militate against production.

12. Governments should adopt credit policies conducive to making credit available to the farming population;

13. To motivate farmers to produce more, Governments should adopt equitable price policies and expand marketing facilities for agricultural products;

14. Governments should create food distribution systems that will help to make products available to all sectors of the population;

15. Governments should expand general health services to cover, as far as possible, all sectors of the population,

16. Member States should intensify research into food conservation and popularize the results of such research,

17. In each State, social workers should be involved in the preparation, execution and evaluation of specific development programmes whether of an agricultural or industrial nature.

B. Industrial development

Whereas the second extraordinary session of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government has called for decisive measures to be taken to stimulate the rapid industrialization of this continent,

Whereas the Heads of State and Government have stressed, at the said meeting, that industrialization policy should focus primarily on meeting the basic material needs of the populations of this continent,

Whereas they have also underscored the central role of industrialization as an effective instrument of winning for Africa its rightful place in the world market,

It is, therefore, recommended that:

1. Governments should increase control over raw materials and natural resources as a prerequisite for industrialization in developing countries;

2. Governments should adopt an industrialization policy based on considerations of relative and competitive advantage in terms of available raw materials;

3. In developing industrialization policies, Governments should take into account opportunities for job creation in addition to returns on investment;

4. Governments should consider the impact of the creation of new industrial establishments in agriculture;

5. Governments should adopt a physical planning policy that forms an integral part of the national development plan based on the principle of regional balance which means, in particular, that industrial activities should be decentralized so as to:

(a) Narrow the gap in life styles between urban and rural populations;

(b) Reduce the pressure on employment opportunities and the supply of other services in rural areas;

(c) Use industrialization as a means of rationalizing and modernizing economic activity in the agricultural sector;

6. To realize the goals of a geographically decentralized industrial system, Governments should undertake the task of advance planning in terms of:

(a) Determining suitable sites for new industries;

(b) Planning the physical layouts of the site on the basis of accepted zoning practices;

(c) Providing housing and other social facilities such as schools, health centres, markets, recreational areas and so forth.

7. Governments should set standards for the disposal of industrial waste so as to protect the environment from pollution;

8. Governments should promulgate regulations that ensure the protection of workers from occupational diseases and industrial accidents;

9. Governments should adopt a system of remuneration that will stimulate motivation and discipline in work so as to encourage high productivity.

C. Science and technology

Whereas one of the major causes of Africa's underdevelopment is backwardness in technology,

Whereas technology transferred reluctantly and without being adapted to the needs of the receiving country is not generally in the interest of developing countries,

Whereas it is necessary to adapt science and technology to African social, cultural and economic realities,

It is, therefore, recommended that:

1. Governments should mount research programmes in the adaptation of science and technology to the realities and needs of their respective countries;

2. Governments should actively promote the acceptance by the public of technologies adapted to the relevant situations which affect the social and economic life of their countries;

3. Efforts should be made to produce and market improved equipment at costs affordable by the average person,

4. Governments should encourage and support service and producer co-operatives to employ scientific developments in agriculture and production inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides, etc.;

5. In order to improve the health status of the general population, the quest for simple and yet efficient methods of providing adequate water supplies for personal use should be increased. In this respect the use of wind mills should be explored.

D. Measures to be taken to maximize the social benefits of the proposed expansion of an intra-African network of transport and communications

Whereas the second extraordinary session of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government has affirmed the usefulness of expanding a continental network of transportation and communications as a means of advancing the cause of collective self-reliance among African countries by encouraging free movement of people and goods across national boundaries,

Whereas this is recognized as an effective means of promoting African unity,

Whereas it is also important to realize that at the same time this is likely to have adverse consequences on existing patterns of population and manpower distribution,

It is, therefore, recommended that:

1. Governments should:

(a) Accord high priority to this worthwhile goal;

(b) Study policies of migration which would contribute to solving social problems arising out of migration in Africa and their impact on the economies of African countries;

(c) Encourage the exchange of video-taped and other programmes depicting social life, culture, important news and events in different African countries, until such time as an intra-African satellite communication system makes live broadcasting a reality.

2. Partners should:

(a) In the case of joint economic projects such as heavy industries located in the territory of one of the partners, make labour allocations classified by skill on the basis of a quota allocation proportionate to the share of inputs to the project;

(b) In the case of joint economic projects as defined under 2(a) above, sign agreement concerning the rights of the workers deployed by reason of the partnership;

3. In order to promote greater understanding among the people of Africa and to advance the cause of African solidarity, tourism by Africans within Africa should be actively promoted by working out international agreements among national transport - particularly air transport systems - about low-cost travel packages;

E. Measures to be taken to maximize the social advantages of the possible discovery of alternative sources of energy

Considering the constant deterioration in the terms of trade, the low price level of raw material exports and the steady increase in the cost of imported manufactures and services which among other things lead to fluctuations in energy prices,

Considering the need to establish the new international economic order as rapidly as possible,

Stressing the importance and urgency of reducing Africa's excessive dependence on foreign sources of energy,

Whereas it is important to realize that inspite of the economic advantage of a breakthrough in the development of reliable energy sources, there are likely to be social costs in the form of the disturbance of existing patterns of population settlement and adverse effects on the environment,

It is, therefore, recommended that:

1. Governments should undertake advanced planning for the resettlement of people who will be affected by the location of new oil fields, coal mines, hydroelectric projects and nuclear plants;

2. Since the opening up of new sources of energy or the expansion of existing ones involves large inflows of labour from outside, the likely size of

this inflow should be estimated in advance as part of the general feasibility study and arrangements made for their settlement including planning and implementation of programmes of social services such as housing, education, health and recreation services, markets, etc.;

3. Standards about safety, ventilation and other protective measures should be set in order to protect workers and communities from such hazards as result from coal dust, toxic fumes, radiation and other pollutants.

VII. International co-operation in social development

Whereas the guiding principle and basic strategy in the war against underdevelopment is collective self-reliance,

Whereas it is realized that, individually, African countries lack sufficient resources to deal with crucial dimensions of social development needs such as the training of high-level manpower and the building of a data bank in the fields of science and technology,

Whereas it is recognized that, by reason of their educational preparation and training, African development planners tend to prescribe development strategies of doubtful utility in the African context,

It is, therefore, recommended that:

1. Since no single university can attain excellence in all fields of training for high level manpower, some universities should, through subregional pooling of resources, be designated to undertake the training of high-level manpower to meet, even if only modestly, the high-level manpower requirements of countries in the subregion,

2. Centres for basic and applied research should be established in each subregion where scholars in the social sciences may engage in research activities aimed at increasing knowledge and understanding about the economic, social and cultural characteristics of African societies, the patterns and dynamics of changes that are taking place, and the implications of these for development policy;

3. The educational and research facilities specified under (1) and (2) should be financed by contributions from member countries and be subsidized through financial and technical assistance from bilateral and multilateral donor agencies,

4. An African development institute should be established, the functions of which will be to:

(a) Continually engage in evaluating African experiences in development planning,

(b) Train high- and medium-level development planning personnel;

(c) Organize a multinational and multidisciplinary team of experts in development to provide consultative services to African countries upon request,

5. Technical conferences, seminars and/or symposia for development planners in the region should be organized,

6. Governments should accord high priority to the establishment, in conjunction with universities of known capability, of research centres for the development and adaptation of technologies suitable for African conditions. Such Centres should be able to develop create, test, popularize and distribute or disseminate these technologies,

7. As part of the effort to promote international co-operation in the training of social development personnel African Governments, through their ministries for social affairs, should extend technical and material assistance to the Association for Social Work Education in Africa (ASWEA) which has been serving as a regional co-ordinating body and clearing house of information since 1971,

8. Assistance should be given to Zimbabwe to enable that country to cope with the considerable requirements resulting from the complex situation which it is facing, both by African Governments and by the international community.

D. DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

A. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE

Decisions of the Conference concerning the establishment, administration and financing of the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD)

1. Concerning the establishment and programme of work of ACARTSOD, the Conference approved for implementation by the Centre the conceptual framework for social development and its implications for the role of ACARTSOD, the five-year indicative plan for the Centre, the programme of work and activities for the period October 1980 to December 1982, and the working relations of ACARTSOD with other institutions having activities related to its own, as defined in the report of the Tripoli Expert Group Meeting(ACARTSOD/EXP.80/Rpt) and endorsed by the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting (document AMSA/III/WP.9/Rpt).

2. In connexion with financing of ACARTSOD, the budgetary estimates for the period October 1980 to December 1982, as presented in document ACARTSOD/EXP.80/Rpt/Add.1, were approved subject to the salaries provided in those estimates being adjusted to correspond with the OAU salary scale.

Scale of assessment for contributions by member States to the budget of the Centre

3. The Conference decided that the OAU scale of assessment for contributions by member States should be used as the basis for assessing the contributions of participating countries to the budget of the Centre.

Appointment of the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director of the Centre

4. Having considered the report of the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting concerning the procedures adopted in short-listing the candidates for selection to the post of Executive Director, and with respect to the recommendation of the Expert Group on the successful candidate for that post, the Conference unanimously decided to appoint Dr. Sadig Rasheed (the Sudan) as the Executive Director of the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development for an initial period of two years.

5. Concerning the appointment of a Deputy Executive Director for the Centre, after having discussed the subject at length, it was decided that, as the Agreement establishing the Centre made no provision for such an appointment by the Conference, and as the post might not need to be filled at this initial stage of the Centre's establishment, consideration of this subject should be suspended.

Designation of the members of the Governing Board of ACARTSOD

6. The Conference decided to limit eligibility for membership on the Governing Board of ACARTSOD to those countries which had signed the Agreement for its establishment on 10 October 1980.

7. In response to the call for countries that had not signed the Agreement to do so, the following countries signed the Agreement on 10 October 1980: Algeria, Benin, the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea and Liberia. Gabon and Rwanda indicated their willingness to sign the Agreement and were to make arrangements to sign it. The following 21 countries had signed the Agreement as at 10 October 1980: Algeria, Benin, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Morocco, the Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Togo, the United Republic of Cameroon and Zaire.

8. The Conference elected the following countries to membership of the Governing Board for the biennium 1981-1982: Algeria and Egypt (North Africa); Ethiopia and Kenya (East and Southern Africa); Burundi and the United Republic of Cameroon (Central Africa); Benin and the Gambia (West Africa).

Other decisions on ACARTSOD

9. The Conference agreed that, while the financing of the activities of the Centre should be assumed first and foremost by the African countries with whom primary responsibility rested, an appeal should be made to international organizations from within and outside the United Nations family, and to other donor agencies to extend financial, technical and material assistance to ACARTSOD, especially during its early years of existence, so that the Centre could establish itself firmly and made a substantive contribution to the research and training needs of the whole region in the field of social development.

10. Member States which wished to see portions or articles of the Agreement establishing the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development amended were urged to communicate their proposals in due course to the secretariat of the Centre in keeping with article XV of the Agreement so that the proposals could be put before the fourth session of the Conference of African Ministers for Social Affairs for consideration.

The African Charter for Social Action

11. In connexion with the establishment of the African Charter for Social Action, the Conference decided that the following countries would constitute an Ad-Hoc Committee to prepare the Charter: the Central African Republic (Central Africa); Guinea (West Africa); the Sudan (East Africa); Tunisia (North Africa); one country to be determined by consensus among the countries of the southern African subregion, and Ethiopia (host country of ECA and OAU). The Ad-Hoc Committee was expected to meet in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Date and venue of the next session

12. The Conference decided to hold its fourth session in Tripoli, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, at the headquarters of ACARTSOD, towards the end of 1982, in conformity with the clause of the Agreement which stipulates that the "Conference shall meet once every two years". (See articleVII, 4).

B. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE

1(III) Aid to Zimbabwe

The Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs,

In recognition of the heroic struggle of the people of Zimbabwe against the forces of colonialism, imperialism and racism,

Recalling the damage in terms of human and economic resources which is sustained through the struggle for liberation,

Aware of the necessity for the rehabilitation of war disabled combattants and non-combattants,

Mindful of the serious social consequences of the problems of disability and refugees and displaced persons in Zimbabwe,

Considering the considerable financial burden now facing the Government of Zimbabwe in its current nation-building efforts,

In keeping with the spirit of solidarity which characterizes the intra-African co-operation in the struggle for liberation, freedom and development of human resources,

1. Requests the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to extend advisory services in the field of social planning and to lend support to development activities in Zimbabwe;

2. Calls upon States members of the Organization of African Unity and the Economic Commission for Africa to support the Government of Zimbabwe in its efforts to achieve its social and economic reconstruction;

3. Further calls upon the international community to respond generously to the call of Zimbabwe for financial support for the rebuilding of the nation and for coping with the serious problems arising from the present situation of war displaced persons, persons who had been in "protected villages" as well as disabled combattants and refugees.

2(III) The need for social justice in South Africa and Namibia and on the release of Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners

The Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs,

Having heard with concern statements made by the liberation movements in southern Africa and Namibia,

Recalling numerous United Nations General Assembly resolutions and those of the Organisation of African Unity demanding for freedom, peace and social justice in South Africa, Namibia and elsewhere in the world where people are still suffering under the yoke of racial discrimination and lack of social justice,

Cognisant of the fact that the bans imposed on the national liberation movements and the imprisonment of the political leaders, who are the mouthpiece of the oppressed people, continue to suppress peoples' freedom of expression, self determination and quest for social justice,

Convinced that imprisonment of political prisoners is a form of disablement,

Convinced that the release of all political prisoners will constitute one of the pre-requisites for bringing about socio-political justice in South Africa, and Namibia,

Gravely concerned about the deteriorating condition of Nelson Mandela in Robben Island,

1. Demands the immediate and unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners in South Africa and Namibia;

2. Calls upon the United Nations system, the OAU member states and the international community at large to intensify pressure upon the Pretoria regime for the release of all political prisoners and the restoration of social justice in that part of the continent.

3(III) Resolution on the conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Seminar on the International Year of Disabled Persons

The third Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs, meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 8 to 10 October 1980,

Having considered the report of the Regional Technical Meeting and the Regional Seminar on the aims of the International Year of Disabled Persons,

Conscious of the major causes of disability and the magnitude of the problems of the disabled in Africa,

Taking into account aggression and its effects on the incidence of disability,

Considering that the current socio-economic environment which gives rise to disability is frequently dictated by external circumstances, beyond the control of the Governments of the region,

In the light of the solidarity and hospitality which characterize African customs and traditions,

Recalling the two declarations adopted by the United Nations General Assembly concerning the rights of the mentally retarded and of disabled persons of 1971 and 1975 respectively,

Conscious that the magnitude and scope of problems are such that an appropriate solution cannot be found through conventional means but requires the application of science and technology,

Considering that because of the nature of the problem and in particular the underlying causes of disability, the countries of the region must discharge their obligations to society and undertake appropriate action with a view to changing the current situation radically and facilitating the integration of the disabled into society,

Considering also that the nature and problem of disability in Africa imply that the international community should discharge its moral and social obligations and make an effective contribution, particularly as the causes of disability are often imposed on Africa by external phenomena such as decolonization, struggles for liberation, aggression and socio-economic conditions resulting from an unjust international economic order,

Observing that the commendable efforts undertaken by African States are not generally developed and incorporated in the framework of socio-economic planning and that isolated action in this area often entails a waste of available resources,

Recommends that:

1. Priority action should be taken to establish an appropriate system of data collection with the aim of obtaining statistical data on the magnitude and scope of the problem of disability;

2. An exhaustive inventory should be taken of available resources for disability prevention, the rehabilitation of the disabled and their socio-economic re-integration;

3. The programmes provided for in the areas of disability prevention and rehabilitation of the disabled should be incorporated in socio-economic planning in the light of the statistical data mentioned above;

4. Budgetary allocations should be increased significantly so that intensive action might be taken against the principal causes of disability, in particular, measures such as compaigns against communicable diseases and co-ordinated programmes for the production, quality control and distribution of vaccines against these diseases;

5. A permanent national co-ordinating body should be established;

6. Administrative and legislative texts should be revised to bring them into line with the two General Assembly declarations on the rights of the mentally retarded and the rights of disabled persons;

7. Affirmative action should be taken to provide equal opportunity for the disabled and enable them to have access to social services and be integrated in their community;

8. All initiatives to adapt technology to the needs of the disabled, by using local low-cost materials particularly in the rural areas, should be encouraged;

9. Subregional and regional co-operation should be intensified with a view to finding common appropriate solutions to similar problems faced at various levels through a regional institute or other organs which would serve these ends;

10. The secretariats of ECA and OAU should be strengthened so that they might play a more important role in co-ordinating activities in the region for the implementation of the present recommendations;

11. A regional seminar, of a technical nature, should be organized under the auspices of ECA and OAU for the exclusive purpose of taking an inventory of the resources and means available in the region and held immediately before the fourth Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs;

12. The agenda of the fourth Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs should contain an item on the inventory of the region's resources and means;

13. Appropriate priority should be given to projects on disability prevention and the rehabilitation of the disabled in the context of requests for assistance submitted to the competent United Nations bodies;

14. The relevant United Nations authorities should be urged to take into account the regional characteristics of Africa in the Long-term Plan of Action, bearing in mind the above-mentioned recommendations;

15. The activities and programmes of non-governmental organizations should be consistent with national development plans.

4(III) Resolution on the consequences of the racist and apartheid policy in South Africa and Namibia

The third Conference of the African Ministers of Social Affairs held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 8 to 10 October 1980,

Deeply concerned that the racist and apartheid policy of the regime in Pretoria with its practices of torture, imprisonment and armed repression constitutes one of the principal causes of the increase in the number of disabled persons among the black population,

Noting that apartheid intrinsically constitutes a source of mental repression and psychological disorder as a result of the mass and mandatory uprooting and resettlement of the population in so-called homelands,

Also noting that such uprooting divides families through the application of dehumanizing emigrant labour laws,

Aware that the resultant economic privation and poverty are causes of malnutrition, which leads to growth problems and mental retardation, not to mention the sense of inferiority, harassment and social insecurity experienced by the black population in South Africa and Namibia,

Bearing in mind the fact that the national liberation movements which are the spokesmen of the majority of the South African population are banned and this denial of the right of expression makes them less able to resist the oppression,

Aware that the front-line States, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zimbabwe are the targets of attacks and bombings by the racist and apartheid regime in South Africa in its attempts to stop those States from supporting the liberation struggle in South Africa and Namibia,

1. Condemns the racist regime in Pretoria, which is the bastion of apartheid for:

(a) The system of permanent and flagrant oppression which it continues to impose on the people of South Africa and Namibia,

(b) The atrocities which are at the root of the ever growing number of disabled persons,

(c) The refusal to grant the people their legitimate right to social justice.

2. Further condemns the racist regime of South Africa, the country of apartheid, for its attacks against the front-line States as well as Lesotho, Swaziland and Zimbabwe,

3. Appeals to the Organization of African Unity to provide the liberation movements with the necessary resources for the rehabilitation and the technical and vocational training of disabled persons,

4. Invites the deliberative bodies of the United Nations to ensure that the necessary budgetary credits are available to enable the IYDP secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme to assist the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity in implementing their programmes of action for the rehabilitation of the disabled and their socio-economic integration in their communities,

5. Urgently requests the Organization of African Unity and the financial institutions of the United Nations system to provide financial and material assistance to the front-line States as well as to Lesotho, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

5(III) Assistance to displaced persons of Palestine

The Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs,

Realizing the considerable socio-economic problems facing the people of Palestine, who have been displaced from their homeland,

Conscious of the necessity to secure all possible social assistance for the displaced people of Palestine in the spirit of Afro-Arab co-operation,

Aware of the continued co-operation and co-ordination of policy between Israel and South Africa and the danger it poses to African and Arab social development,

Re-affirming that the people of Palestine must exercise their fundamental rights, including their right to an independent homeland

1. Reaffirms its solidarity with the people of Palestine and the Palestine Liberation Organization which is its sole, legitimate and authentic representative;

2. Expresses its gratitude to the States, organizations and voluntary agencies which are already extending assistance to the people of Palestine;

3. Urgently requests all member States to contribute all necessary social assistance to the displaced people of Palestine;

4. Condemns all efforts made to deny the people of Palestine the exercise of their inalienable rights, including their right to an independent homeland.

6(III) Report of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity

The Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity on the activities of the secretariat, covering the period January 1977 to July 1980,

Noting, with satisfaction, the efforts made to implement the resolutions and decisions of the second Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs, which met in Alexandria, Egypt, from 10 to 17 January 1977,

Desirous of ensuring that action is taken on some of those resolutions and decisions which have not been implemented hitherto,

Noting further with appreciation the existing co-operation among the Organization of African Unity, the Economic Commission for A;rica and its African Training and Research Centre for Women, the Pan African Women's Organization (PAWO), as well as other United Nations agencies working for the good of Africa in the field of social development,

Aware of the need for increased human, material and financial support to the Organization of African Unity, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Pan African Women's Organization and all other African governmental set-ups and non-governmental organizations to enable them to be more effective in the function they undertake for promoting social development, especially the integration of women in development,

Conscious of the need for adequate care of the disabled African persons, the children and the social offenders,

1. Congratulates the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity on his report and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa for the activities he has performed since 1977, as well as all other concerned institutions for the co-operation rendered in the implementation of the resolutions and decisions of the second Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs and urges that urgent collaborative efforts be mounted to implement those resolutions and decisions where action has not been taken;

2. Requests the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, in co-operation with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, to take effective measures to ensure that the projects, approved by the thirty second session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity in favour of promoting the integration of women in economic development, are implemented. In this connexion, the Conference urges all those concerned to render human, material and financial support to the secretariat of the Organization of African Unity, so that it can embark on the task of executing the projects referred to above;

3. Requests the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to continue his efforts, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations social defence Research Institute, to pave the way for the establishment of an Institute for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders for Africa south of Sahara;

4. Requests States members of the Organization of African Unity to implement the Monrovia Declaration on the Welfare of the African Child;

5. Urges member States to implement the Lagos Plan of Action especially with respect to women, children, the disabled and other groups in society requiring positive social welfare action. The Conference also urges the Organization of African Unity and the Economic Commission for Africa to continue launching joint projects which will result in the implementation of the cited Plan of Action;

6. Calls on member States to make necessary contributions to the effective operation of the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development in Tripoli and to sign and ratify the agreement establishing this Centre as early as possible.

7(III) Earthquake in Algeria

The Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs,

Deeply grieved by the news of the catastrophe that has befallen the brotherly people of Algeria,

Deeply conscious of the great contribution and the critical role played by Algeria in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism and racism in all its manifestations, and for a just, egalitarian, peaceful and democratic order not only in Africa and the Arab world but also in the world at large,

Aware that this catastrophe is one which not only concerns but also directly affects all African States committed to the eradication of social problems caused by natural and man-made disasters,

1. Fully shares the grief of the fraternal people of Algeria and extends its heartfelt condolences to the Government of Algeria;

2. Requests the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to appeal urgently to member States to extend voluntary contributions which would assist the bereaved families affected by this calamity;

3. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to use his good offices with a view to mobilizing the international community to extend effective and meaningful assistance to the victims of this grave disaster.

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